

FARM AND FIRESIDE

SOUTHERN PLANTER AND FARMER
The Oldest and Ablest Agricultural Journal in the South. Subscription \$2.00 a year, Richmond, Va.
We will furnish this excellent and popular Agricultural Journal, with our paper one year for \$2.50, or six months for \$1.50. Every farmer should have it.

The Wool Market.

The movement of the new clip has shown considerable improvement of late. Probably half of the clip in Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota has changed hands. There was considerable activity during the latter part of June in eastern markets which lifted the feeling of depression that prevailed previously. There was no material change in prices, but transactions were made upon a basis which indicates that the requirements of the manufacturers will consume all the wool in the country at prices which will not be below present quotations. Advice from the East lead to the belief that the manufacturers recognize this strong probability, but the situation of the trade in wools is such that the manufacturers do not care to purchase wool largely in advance of their requirements. The movement to the seaboard, therefore, is slow. Manager & Avery's wool circular of July 16th says that it is probable the current demands of consumers will be sufficient to prevent any great accumulation in the eastern markets. The same circular says that California wools have been in fair demand, and in Boston sales thus far this month constitute a considerable part of the market. Texas wools are steady and have sold moderately well. Early in the month there were liberal sales of foreign wools mainly of Australian and English wools, which with some shipments to England have reduced the stocks considerably. The importations for the month were something over 4,000 bales. During the first six months of 1880 our importations were 2,000,000 pounds. It is evident that manufacturers and dealers are moving cautiously. There is, therefore, no fear of excitement in the market, as the wool clip is a fine one. Still it is not expected that prices will decline; on the contrary, it is not improbable that certain kinds will advance. Manufacturers are reported as supplied with the better grades of domestic.

The Sunflower

We have lately met with a paragraph in several of our exchanges recommending the planting of a sunflower seed in the middle of each hill of poll beans, so that the stalk of the sunflower, growing faster than the beans and always keeping a little ahead, would serve instead of a pole, saving to the grower considerable labor and expense. How this would work in practice we cannot say, but we do know that for many uses the sunflower is a valuable plant to raise. It grows very rapidly and when thickly planted around sink drains, privies and other unsightly and offensive places, it not only serves as a screen, but it also is said to have the property of absorbing malarious exhalations and purifying the atmosphere. The seeds are much relished by poultry, and, if not fed too liberally, are very wholesome. A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* recommends the seeds as a cure for the heaves in horses, and says: A gentleman told me that there is nothing equal to sunflower seed for that purpose. He had one bushel of the seeds ground with two bushels of oats, and gave a horse two quarts of the mixed meal, wet in water, three times a day. He took time when the horse was not used at hard work. In two weeks not a sign of the heaves could be observed, and the horse looked as sleek and bright as if his hair had been oiled. He had cured two horses of his own of this distressing complaint, and recommended it to others, who had experienced a like result. In cases of horse distemper and coughs it is an excellent remedy.

Weeds as well as all other plants are now making a vigorous growth, and the annual job of destroying them has been commenced. Some farmers appear to do this with but little trouble, while others find every time, and come to the conclusion that they have the weediest farm in town. The only way to get rid of them is not to allow one to go to seed anywhere on the premises. Most of them are annual, perennial plants depending on the seeds for their continued growth, and when this supply is cut off they will very materially be reduced in a few years. One of the worst nuisances for the pests among the rubbish that is allowed by some farmers to accumulate around their buildings, or where the wash from the barnyard or other sources has killed the grasses. These must be destroyed as well as those in the ground that is cultivated. To do this, pull them up by the roots before their seeds ripen, and remove them to the hog-pen, or the compost heap.

BITTER CREAM.—A. W. K., Searsport, Me., asks for the cause and remedy for bitter cream. All the cows are in fine health and have a good pasture. **ANS.**—Bitter cream may be caused by the cow eating bitter weeds, as rag weed, bonset, willow leaves and twigs, etc. Or it may be caused by the cow being injured by the hot weather, or by impure water. Or it may be caused by a fungus growth in the cream when kept in a cellar that is not well aired or has anything moldy in it. Or the cream may be kept too long or the churning may be too long continued. If the bitterness is supposed to be from any cause without the cow, a good pinch of saltpeter in each pan of milk may change it. If it is within the cow give her half an ounce of saltpeter once a day, for two or three days; this will help to carry off the impurities through the kidneys. Other causes may be removed or prevented.

Phantom Bouquets

Whoever appreciates the chaste and beautiful must admire the ethereal grace and loveliness of these exquisite groupings. The art of skeletonizing leaves was well understood by the ancients; it has been derided by the people of our own day to develop and utilize it, with more pleasing results than those obtained by Oriental artists, who decorated their choicest specimens with gaudily painted mottoes and devices.

The process through which the leaves must pass is one of corruption. There are other methods, but none so satisfactory as that of slow decay, from which the faultless framework can be rescued, unimpaired in texture and uninjured by chemicals. The purifying, bleaching, and mounting require taste skill and a delicacy of touch that are little short of actual genius. After the most perfect artist has done his best, he has done but little; his labor has been to reveal the wonders of the Master's hand; a mechanism so marvelous, so intricate, so harmonious, that human skill might seek, and seek in vain to all eternity to rival it. The manner of making skeleton leaves is quite generally understood in theory. Among the multitude of experimenters, many have become discouraged through lack of definite knowledge, and many more for the want of that patience and perseverance necessary to success. Personal experiment and practice are essential to perfection in this art, but attention to trifles and details is of such importance that no small profit is to be gained by following the rules which actual experience has proved to be good. Even then, one must be prepared for occasional mistakes and discouragements, but perseverance is so worthy of achievement. With the aid of these plain directions, which are the result of years of practice and hundreds of experiments, any one ought to be partially successful even in a first attempt. If a summer's labor results in one bouquet of perfect phantoms, the delight and compensation will, I think, be ample. It is needless to suggest to the persons of correct taste that half a dozen specimens gracefully grouped would be preferable to a greater number of blemished and imperfect leaves; one such is enough to ruin an otherwise beautiful structure. The most common error is gathering the leaves indiscriminately, and without proper regard to their perfection; another is putting too many and too great a variety in the same receptacle. Too early in the season the fibres are not strong enough to resist the process of decay; too late, some leaves have become so tough that they cannot be completely freed from the cellular matter. Some leaves have chemical properties which will cause them to act as a preservative to others. Among these are hollyhock, chestnut, walnut, oak and birch. It is next to impossible to skeletonize them, and if the attempt is made they should be kept by themselves. Perfection is a necessity. No matter if a leaf has a flaw only the size of a pin's point, it is useless. Every single one should be minutely examined. It will save time trouble and disappointment to particularly observe this important caution. Already some varieties have suffered from the depredations of insects to such an extent that a perfect leaf is seldom to be found. Elm, maple and sycamore will be particularly scarce; they should have been gathered early in the month, before their enemies attacked them so voraciously.

In our latitude, by the first of July most leaves are old to gather. Care should be taken to select those that are firm and fully matured. Small and medium sized leaves are more easily handled, and more effectively grouped than large ones. Some of the latter are readily cleared, and have very tough fibres but they should be used sparingly except in large bouquets. The leaves must be placed in open earthen vessels (never use iron or tin) covered with rain water, and set in the sunniest spot out of doors, with a folded paper fitted inside and resting on the leaves to keep them under. The water must not be changed, but should be replenished when necessary. At the end of six weeks they will be sufficiently macerated for examination. By this time the disagreeable odor will have partially passed away and some of the leaves will be quite ready; others will need a longer time. It is best to drain off the old water and fill up the jar with fresh, before removing any of the leaves, after which a few of them may be dipped out into a basin of clean warm water. Take one between the thumb and finger, immerse the hand in warm water, and press and rub the leaf carefully, to remove the loose matter from the network. Those of strong texture will need brushing to thoroughly cleanse them. Lay one on a pane of glass, the upperside of the leaf down, and with a soft tooth-brush remove all of the pulp and skin, then turn it and finish brushing. If it cannot be readily cleaned it should be placed in a jar of fresh water and with the balance of the imperfect skeletons returned to the sunbath for two or three weeks longer.

This first washing is decidedly disagreeable, and I would advise parties undertaking it to provide themselves with chloride of lime or a solution of copperas before beginning. A small quantity of either disinfects close at hand will prevent injurious effects. The second cleansing will not be so unpleasant, but it saves handling and trouble to assort the leaves in the first place according to the time they require for maceration. Amateurs will do

well to remember that nothing is gained by putting a mass of leaves into one vessel. The following named varieties all make fine specimens. Ash and Silver Poplar are the most easily prepared:

Elm, Sycamore, Linden, Ash, Poplar, Maples and Weeping Willow, may be gathered from the middle of June to the middle of August. After the middle of July it will be difficult to find perfect Elm and Maple leaves, they are so subject to the attack of insects. All of these leaves will require about six weeks' maceration, and some of them will lose their stems during process. Willow and Elm leaves are very delicate and corresponding beautiful. A camel's hair brush will be found useful in cleansing them. Pear, Rose and Wild Cherry leaves may be gathered in July, and will take two months to prepare. Deutzia and Barbary leaves may be gathered at the same time and will be ready in four or five weeks. With them put English Ivy leaves, which may be gathered at any time. Choose those a year old; the young leaves are too tender. They will need four or five weeks. The skeleton is concealed in a tough covering. When this skin is gently torn, it will float out, clear and perfect, but minus a stem. A hazel, Sassafras, Wisteria, Bignonia, Mahonia, Magnolia, Camellia, Cape Jasmine, Laurestina, and the leaves of India Rubber plant may all be used. Pulp leaves and those in which the fibres are longitudinal will not answer; a leaf to be suitable for skeletonizing must have a strong and woody network. Practice will soon enable one to judge of a leaf by holding it up to the light and looking at the veins. Chestnut, Hickory, Beech, and many other leaves containing tannin should be kept by themselves; they will take at least three months to complete. A few drops of mature acid added to the water will hasten the process.

There are many seed vessels and flowers that make beautiful skeletons. Some of these become so while remaining on the plant or vine. In gathering them, choose those that are thoroughly matured and turning brown. Hydrangea blossoms require three months' maceration. The seed pod of the Wild cucumber opens with the frost and drops its seed; gather it then, and soak two months or less if it is already partially skeletonized. Stramonium buds should never be used, for no matter how carefully they are prepared, age turns them yellow. Shell flower, Skull Cap, Malloes, Poppy, Campanula, Ground Cherry, and the membrana bracts from the Linden or Bass wood tree are all suitable, and will take about two weeks' soaking. The Wild Hop is particularly beautiful. The seed capsule is surrounded by a leafy border which becomes clear and lace-like after two weeks' soaking. The seed must be removed before bleaching. This shrub is not common in all localities. It grows plentifully in the north end of Lincoln Park, and reaches maturity late in the summer.

Ferns should be gathered any time after the middle of July. They need no preparation besides bleaching. Those having spores on the under side are particularly beautiful when bleached. Select different varieties and sizes, perfect in shape, and finely cut. Discard all coarse and extremely large ones. Carry a book to the woods, and place them immediately between its pages when gathered. Ferns are sometimes found partially bleached; it requires very little chemical action to make them as white as snow. The green ones will be just as white, but will take longer. Directions for bleaching these and the leaves, also for mounting the phantom will be given next week.

Extraordinary Yield.
We take the following from the *Monongahela City Republican*, published in Washington county, Penn.
Last year we published the clip of Robert Van Voorhis' American Merino flock, and called attention to its height, weight and average. The item was copied in the agricultural journals of this country, in the *English Wood Grower*, and the *Australian Zebu*. Most of these journals pronounced it, with exception, the largest known average of some of them doubted its truthfulness. We now give the spring clip for 1880, and in the full confidence that it cannot be, we challenge the world to beat it.

BUCK FLEECES.
Young Don Carlos, 2 years old 32 lbs.
Young Prince, 2 years old 33 lbs.
Chunk, 3 years old 33 1/2 lbs.
Old Don Carlos, 6 years old 32 lbs.
Ulysses, yearling from Old Don 22 1/2 lbs.
Old Don sheared 33 1/2 lbs. in 1878, but being now 6 years old is on the decline, and gives but 32 this year.

WE FLEECES.
No. 14, 2 year ewe 22 lbs.
No. 21, " " 20 1/2 lbs.
No. 24, " " 20 lbs.
No. 26, " " 19 lbs.
No. 32, " " 22 1/2 lbs.
No. 39, " " 20 lbs.
No. 52, " " 18 lbs.
Fifty head of yearling ewes averaged 17 pounds, many clipping 18 to 19 pounds.

All the above clips are less than a year's growth, being cut a little sooner this year than last. The whole flock of 250 head will average up to last year's clip, and perhaps shade it a little. These fleeces are at the Keystone Sheep Farm for inspection and weight by any who desire to verify the count; the above count is attested by the shearer, and is true to the ounce. When it is considered that the average clips of the State is 12-13 pounds, for this county about 4-12

pounds, then the extraordinary showing of whole bunches that rise from 30 to 33 1/2 pounds for bucks and 19 to 23 for ewes, the yield becomes one of the wonders of the time, without an equal in American wool growing records, and shows to what perfection the intelligent skill of Mr. Van Voorhis has arrived. He has been solicited to exhibit this fall at the National Sheep Show in Philadelphia, and will possibly go there simply to show the world what Washington county can do when it attempts to raise a bit of wool.

Glass should be washed in cold water, which gives it a brighter and cleaner look than when cleansed with warm water.

It is a good plan to put new earthenware into cold water and let it heat gradually until it boils; then cool again. Brown earthenware in particular may be toughened in this way. A handful of rye or wheat bran thrown in while it is boiling will preserve the glazing so that it will not be destroyed by acid or salt.

ANTHONY COLLEGE, WEST VIRGINIA.
Will begin its 18th Session Monday, September 27, at 10 A.M., and is annually adding to the educated workers in our wide field a greater number than all other colleges combined. The college is situated in a beautiful spot, and is surrounded by a large tract of land, which is used for the purpose of agriculture. The college is a member of the Association of American Colleges, and is a member of the American Association of Christian Colleges and Universities. The college is a member of the American Association of Christian Colleges and Universities. The college is a member of the American Association of Christian Colleges and Universities.

Millinery Goods.
MISS HUGHES would inform the ladies of Woodstock and vicinity, that she has just returned from Baltimore with a large and carefully selected stock of goods, including:

HATS AND BONNETS.
In all the latest styles, and at all prices. A full line of hats, bonnets, and accessories. Also a full stock of cravats.

VEILS, RUCHINGS & C.
Friday and Saturday will be opening days. The ladies are invited to call as soon as the latest styles of hats and bonnets will be trimmed for inspection.

PUMPS! PUMPS!
I am now prepared to make and put in the old time

Fravel Pumps.
These pumps have been tried for nearly a century, and are found to be more lasting and cheaper than any of the new pumps which have been introduced.

ASK FOR IRON BITTERS.
FOR SALE BY ALL DRUGGISTS.
J. S. IRWIN & SON, AGTS.
Oct. 29—1 yr.

M. H. REARDON,
(SUCCESSOR TO DENNIS & TROTTER),
DEALER IN PURE

Home Made Whisky.
BRANDIES, INES, ETC.
CHOICE GROCERIES
Cigars and Tobacco, Wooden Ware, etc.
Special attention is called to the large stock of Kentucky Rye Whiskies, and their purity guaranteed.

SADDLES & HARNESS.
WOODSTOCK VIRGINIA.
SHAFTER, SUMMITT, M'CLELLAN, SIDE, SIDE SADDLERY.

THE GREAT CAUSE OF HUMAN MISERY.
Just Published, in a Special Envelope.
PRICE SIX CENTS.

View of Marriage!
A Guide to Wedlock and a Treatise on the Duties of Marriage. By E. GRABILL.

Wagon for Sale.
A good two-horse wagon, capable of doing a good deal of work, for sale. Address: J. W. K. Wagon, Woodstock, Va.

COUGH NO MORE!
When you can cure it with
IRWIN'S CURE SYRUP
PRICE 25 CENTS.
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Railroad Advertisements.
July 14th, 1880.
CHESAPEAKE & OHIO R. R.
Passenger Trains run and connect as follows:
WEST BOUND.
No. 1 Mail Express, daily, except Sundays and holidays, leaving Richmond at 8:00 A.M., and arriving at Washington at 11:30 A.M.
No. 3 Express, daily, leaving Richmond at 11:30 A.M., and arriving at Washington at 2:30 P.M.
No. 5 Accommodation, daily, leaving Richmond at 2:30 P.M., and arriving at Washington at 5:30 P.M.
No. 7 Mixed, daily, leaving Richmond at 5:30 P.M., and arriving at Washington at 8:30 P.M.
No. 9 Mixed, daily, leaving Richmond at 8:30 P.M., and arriving at Washington at 11:30 P.M.

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NO. 3 EXPRESS. Daily, leaving Richmond at 11:30 A.M., and arriving at Washington at 2:30 P.M.
NO. 5 ACCOMMODATION. Daily, leaving Richmond at 2:30 P.M., and arriving at Washington at 5:30 P.M.
NO. 7 MIXED. Daily, leaving Richmond at 5:30 P.M., and arriving at Washington at 8:30 P.M.
NO. 9 MIXED. Daily, leaving Richmond at 8:30 P.M., and arriving at Washington at 11:30 P.M.

NO. 1 MAIL EXPRESS. Daily, except Sundays and holidays, leaving Richmond at 8:00 A.M., and arriving at Washington at 11:30 A.M.
NO. 3 EXPRESS. Daily, leaving Richmond at 11:30 A.M., and arriving at Washington at 2:30 P.M.
NO. 5 ACCOMMODATION. Daily, leaving Richmond at 2:30 P.M., and arriving at Washington at 5:30 P.M.
NO. 7 MIXED. Daily, leaving Richmond at 5:30 P.M., and arriving at Washington at 8:30 P.M.
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